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MEN WITHOUT FEAR

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DANGER

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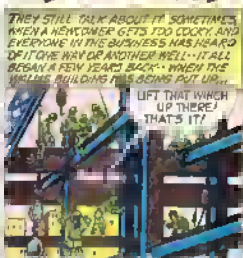




WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

YOU'RE FORTY STORIES UP IN THE AIR. THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT YOU BUT EMPTY SPACE WHERE ONE MIS-STEP MEANS DEATH! AND YOU FACE A RAVING MANIAC WHO'S OUT TO KILL YOU! BUT YOU CAN'T GET OUT BECAUSE THE ONLY OUT IS THE ELEVATOR SHAFT BEHIND HIM! WHAT WOULD YOU DO? READ THE ANSWER IN...

STEEL GIRDER!



THIS WAS
A TYPICAL
DAY--THE
GIRDERSMEN
WHO WELDED
AND PUT UP
STEEL
SUPPORTS
AND SHAFTS--
THEY WERE THE
SKYSCRAPER
HEART
BUT THE
FOREMAN
LOMAK,
ONE OF THE
MEANEST,
RUTHLESS
BOSSSES IN
THE BUSINESS

WHEW! DIS WAS
A TOUGH DAY!
BOY-- THAT SUN
WAS BEATIN' RIGHT
ON MY BACK!

GOWAN! YOU GOT A
REAL BEACH SUN-TAN
NOW! HAW HAW.
YOU'RE A REAL MOVIE
STAR!

SNAP IT UP!
COME ON!
COME ON!



THE MEN HATED HIM-- BUT NO ONE DARED TELL
HIM OFF. LOMAK WAS THE KIND THAT WOULD
RATHER BEAT YOUR FACE IN FIRST BEFORE
YOU COULD FINISH YOUR GRIPE. JOEY LANE
SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED TO FINISH HIS WORK.

JUST A FEW MORE SHOTS-- AND
THIS JOICELL BE SHIPSHAPE! I
WOULDN'T WANT LOMAK ON MY
NECK AGAIN FOR BEING SLOW.



THE DIRTY
LOUSY RAT!

OH-OH! POOR LANE!
HE ALWAYS GETS IT!



DONCHA UNDERSTAND ENGLISH? I
SAID KNOCK OFF! THAT'S ALL FER
TODAY! YA WANNA BUILD THIS
SCRAPER ALL BY YOURSELF, LANE!



N-O, MR LOMAK!
HONEST! I-I WAS
ONLY TRYIN' TO DO A
GOOD JOB! I DIDN'T
HEAR YOU CALL
OUT TIME!

YEAH? WELL GET THIS,
YA YELLOW-LIVERED
RUNT! IF I EVER CATCH
YA NOT JUMPIN' WHEN
I TELL YOU TO AGAIN, I'LL
FIRE YA-- SEE! NOW
BEAT IT!



THE NO-GOOD SKUNK! HE KNOWS WE CAN'T
BRIBE OVER HIS HEAD, 'CAUSE HE'S GOT CONNECTIONS!
AND IF ANYONE DOES, HE NEVER GETS A JOB
AGAIN! SOMEDAY, SOMEONE'S
GONNA FIX HIM GOOD!

YEAH! BUT RIGHT
NOW WE GOTTA TAKE
IT AND LIKE IT!





LAVE
HAS A
GOOD
GUY HE
WAS THE
TYPE
THAT
LIVED
ONLY--
HIS
YOUNG
PRETTY
WIFE
TERRY--
AND
BABY!

I'M FRIGHTENED,
JOEY! PLEASE,
QUIT BEFORE
SOMETHING
HAPPENS! THAT
MIKE LOWAK IS
A--A BULLY!

THERE--THERE,
MONEY! I GOTTA
WORK! RELAX
NOW! EVERY-
THING'S GOING
TO BE ALL
RIGHT!

**BUT THE NEXT MORNING,
LOWAK HAD SOMETHING
SPECIAL PLANNED FOR
JOEY LANE!**

YOU'RE LATE AGAIN, LANE
AND I'M GETTIN' SICK-AN-
TIRED O' PLAYIN' NURSE-
MAID TO YA! FROM NOW
ON, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE
ANOTHER JOB!

B-BUT, MR
LOWAK! I
WAS JUST A
FEW MINUTES
LATE! MY
WIFE DON'T
FEEL SO
WELL, THE
BABY--

SHADDUP! YOU'RE GONNA
TAKE OVER THE RIVET GUN
ON THE TOP-FLOOR! I'M
SHIFTIN' YA THERE
AS OF RIGHT NOW!

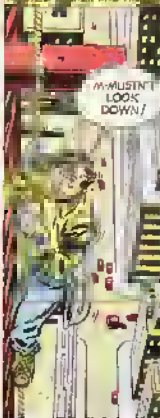
I--THE TOP FLOOR--
WHO? MY EYES--
I-I DON'T SEE SO
GOOD! I'M SUP-
POSED TO GET GLASS-
ES THIS WEEK!--
CAN'T YOU WAIT
TILL THEN?



NO!
YOU'RE GOING UP
LANE! YOU'RE GONNA
SIT THERE ON YER TAIL
ALL ALONE UP IN THE
SKY AND DO WHAT I
TELL YOU! I HATE
WISE GUYS-- AN' YOU'RE
A WISE GUY!

PLEASE--
PLEASE!-- I
GET DIZZY IF
I'M TOO HIGH
UP!

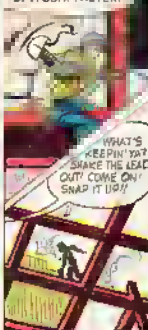
**LOWAK GETS OFF AS JOE IS
HOISTED HIGHER AND HIGHER.**



I-M-MUSTN'T
LOOK
DOWN!

**THAT DAY WAS HELL FOR
JOEY LANE! LOWAK ROGE
HIM EVERY MINUTE!
SOMETHING HAD TO GIVE!
NO GUY COULD TAKE
MUCH MORE OF THIS...**

**FASTER, LANE-- FASTER!
YOU'RE A LAZY SON
OF A GUN! FASTER!**



WHAT'S
KEEPIN' YA?
SHAKE THE LEAD
OUT! COME ON!
SNAP IT UP!

FINALLY JOE CAN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER... HE SCREAMS AT LOWAK AS HE BACKS OUT ONTO A PLANKING...

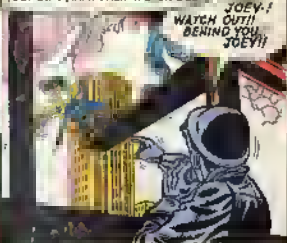
LEAVE ME ALONE!
DO YOU HEAR ME!
LEAVE ME
ALONE!

WHY YOU LITTLE
PUNK! I'LL BASH
YOUR HEAD IN!

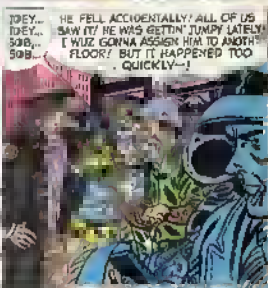


YOU LEAVE ME ALONE! USE YOUR FISTS! THAT'S ALL YOU CAN DO! I'M TIRED OF IT! I'M TIRED OF YOU! STAY AWAY FROM ME OR I'LL...

JOEY!
WATCH OUT!!
BEHIND YOU,
JOEY!!



THEY
GATHERED
THAT POOR,
BROKEN
BODY--ALL
OF THEM.
NOT A
WORD WAS
SPOKEN,
THE
SILENCE
WEIGHED
DOWN
MIKE
LOWAK.
THE POLICE
ARRIVED,
REPORTERS
CAME--
A CROWD
GATHERED...

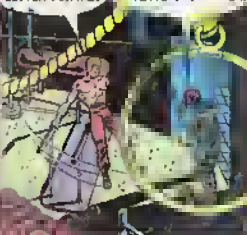


JOEY... HE FELL ACCIDENTALLY! ALL OF US
DIDY... SAW IT! HE WAS GETTIN' JUMPY LATELY!
SOB... I WUZ GONNA ASSIGN HIM TO ANOTH'
SOB... FLOOR! BUT IT HAPPENED TOO
QUICKLY--!

ORDINARILY
THAT
WOULD
HAVE BEEN
THE END--
BUT JOEY
LANE HAD
A BROTHER!
THE LETTER
ARRIVED
EARLY ONE
AFTERNOON
A FEW WEEKS
AFTERWARDS
TO ROY LANE,
STARRED
ACROBAT
WITH A
CARNIVAL...

WHEW! THAT'S
ENOUGH FOR NOW!
HI! POP! GOT A
LETTER FOR ME?

SURE DO SON! MAM!
IT'S GOT PARFUME!
DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D
HAVE A LADY ADMIRER!



GIVE IT HERE, YOU OLD CUPID! IT'S FROM
JOEY'S WIFE! LISTEN TO WHAT SHE SAYS.
ROY--SOMETHING DREADFUL HAS
HAPPENED JOEY HAS

GO ON, SON!
GO ON!



WHAT'S THE
MATTER, SON--
BAD NEWS?

YEAH, ROY! VERY BAD! DO
ME A FAVOR-- GET ANY
THINGS PACKED, WILL YOU?
I'M THROUGH HERE! THERE'S
SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS
I GOTTA ATTEND TO...

AND TWO DAYS LATER...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M GOING TO DO, ROY!
JOEY'S DEAD, ROY! DEAD--
DEAD--DEAD... SOB

LITTLE JOEY--WHO WOULDN'T
HARM A FLY--DEAD! YOU
SAY MIKE LOMAX HATED
HIM, EH? MAYBE WE CAN
DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
YEAH! MAYBE...

ROY NOW
STAVED
WITH TERRY!
HE WANTED
A JOB
BADLY--A

JOB AND
SOME DAYS
LATER, A
NISPY, BE-
SPECTACLED
WORKER
FACED
MIKE

AT THE
ASSIGN-
MENT
SNACK...

ROY LANE, EH? YOU'RE JOE LANE'S
BROTHER! TOO BAD 'BOUT HIM! BUT HE
WAS NO CONSTRUCTION MAN! WE GOT NO
USE FER GUYS THAT GET DIZZY UP THERE!
YOU LIKE TO TAKE HIS JOB, EH?

YES, MR. LOMAX! I'M
NOT TOO BIG A GUY--
BUT--BUT I CAN WORK!

WE'LL SEE, LANE! OKAY! YOU'RE HIRED!
BUT GET THIS--! WATCH ON THE JOB LIKE
YER BROTHER DID AND--YOU'RE THROUGH!
TAKE GIRDER A-44 ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
FLOOR!

OKAY! AND THANKS!

LOMAX
DYED THIS
MORN, HE
HAD JOEY
LANE TO
BRILLY ALL
OVER AGAIN!
THIS
BROTHER
OF HIS
SEEMED
EVEN MORE
OF A
COWARD
THAN
JOEY!
HE
STARTED
ON ROY
RIGHT
AWAY...

I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME YOU
COULD HANDLE A BRICK
CARRIER! CARRY IT ON YER
BACK! GOWAN--CARRY
IT! I SAID!

Y-YESIR!

AND SO IT WENT FOR DAYS WITH NO
SETUP BUT ROY LEARNED FAST

LOOK, LANE! NONE OF MY BUSINESS--
BUT IF I WERE YOU, I'D QUIT! LOMAX IS
OUT TO GET YOU! HE'S A LOON! FORGET
I TOLD YA ANYTHING!
BUT WATCH OUT!

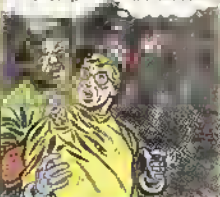
THANKS, FRIEND!
I'LL TAKE THAT
ADVICE!

LOMAK
PLAYED IT
CAUTIOUS
FOR
A WHILE,
THEN WHEN
HE SAW
THAT ROY
LANE WAS
AS BIG A
BOOB AS HIS
BROTHER,
HE STARTED
LOMAK
HAD TURNED
TO
SADISTIC
MANIAC!
IT WAS
DANGEROUS
TO EVEN
LOOK AT HIM

GET YOUR BUTT
UP TO THE TOP
GIRDER! IT'S
SEVENTY-TWO
STORIES TO THE
GROUND, LANE!
SCARED? HA, HA...

N-NO!

HERE IT
COMES! HERE'S
WHAT I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR!



MOMENTS LATER...

OKAY, LANE? THERE'S
NOTHING BUT EMPTY AIR
ON ALL SIDES OF YA.
NOW I'M GONNA SEE
WHAT YA GOT PERCUTS--
--HA--HA...

YOU'RE CRAZY, LOMAK!
NOW I KNOW WHAT'S
WRONG WITH YOU. YOU'RE
SCARED ON THE GROUND!
YOU DON'T GET ALONG
WITH PEOPLE! BUT HERE
--YOU'RE KING! ONLY
I WON'T KNEEL!



YOU-- YOU PUNK!
I'LL SHOW YOU!
I'LL CRUSH YOUR
HEAD LIKE A
MELON!



LOMAK! YOU ONLY
SNAPPED THE
LIFT CABLE! NOW
WE'RE ALONE UP
HERE... JUST
YOU AND ME!

LOMAK CHARGED WITH ONE INTENTION--TO
THROTTLE HIM! BUT ROY WAS WAITING...

NEVER LEAD WITH YOUR RIGHT, LOMAK! YOU'RE
A BIG MAN--AND YOU'RE STRONG--BUT NOT
STRONG ENOUGH BECAUSE THIS IS CHILD'S
PLAY TO ME!



YOU SEE LOMAK! I'M USED TO THIS
SORT OF THING! I'VE DEVELOPED
MY MUSCLES SINCE I WAS A KID!
I COULD TIE YOU INTO A KNOT IF I
WANTED TO! BUT I'D RATHER
SEE YOU SWEAT, LOMAK!

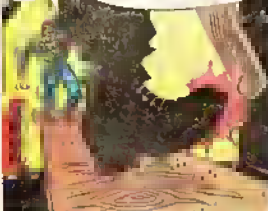


STAY AWAY FROM ME LANE! I'M WARNIN' YA!

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT LOMAK? YOU'RE AT THE EDGE OF THE PLANKING! THIS IS HOW JOEY WENT, WASN'T IT? YOU EGGED HIM ON, LOMAK - DIDN'T YOU?

LISTEN, YA NUT! YOU'LL KILL US BOTH! LET ME GET BACK ON THAT GARDER! Z-I HAD NUTHIN' TO DO WITH YER BROTHERS DEATH! I DIDN'T PUSH HIM!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO! YOU KNEW HE GOT DIZZY! DIDN'T YOU? ALL I HAVE TO DO, LOMAK, IS STEP ON THIS PLANKING JUST ONCE! YOU'LL FALL, LOMAK SEVENTY-TWO STORIES!



SUDDENLY, THERE CAME A SLOW, OMINOUS SOUND. THE PLANKING'S GIVING WAY UNDER YOUR WEIGHT, LOMAK! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO GO THIS WAY?



IT'S ONLY MY HAND NOW THAT LETS YOU LIVE, LOMAK! I'M AN ADROBAT! I COULD STAY UP HERE ALL NIGHT - BUT YOU - HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU'LL LAST? IT'S HIGH UP ISN'T IT? JOEY DIDN'T LIKE IT EITHER!

N-NO! PULL ME UP! ON GOD! GOD! I DON'T WANNA DIE! PLEASE! PLEASE!



ROY LANE BROUGHT HIM DOWN! NO ONE WAS ANYWHERE NEAR THEM TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED FROM BELOW! IT LOOKED LIKE ROY HAD SAVED LOMAK'S LIFE, BUT TERRY AND THE REST ALL KNEW...

I DID IT! I DID IT! I KILLED JOEY LANE! I MADE HIM TAKE THAT JUMP! LOCK ME UP! HA-HA-HA! I KILLED HIM! HA HA HA



WELL, THAT'S THE END OF LOMAK...

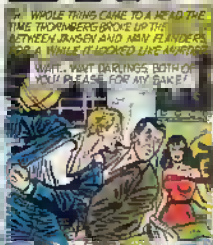
THANK YOU ROY - OH, THANK YOU!

COME ON, KID! WE'RE GOING HOME! REST EASY JOEY! LOMAK'S FATE IS WORSE THAN YOURS!



TAKE THE 'E' OUT OF 'FRIENDS' AND YOU GET 'FIENDS'. BOTH OF THOSE WORDS REPRESENTED JANSEN AND THORNBERG. THE FIRST APPLIED TO THEM BEFORE THEY MET NAN, THE SECOND AFTERWARD WHILE THEY WERE RUNNING THEIR FRENZIED RACE FOR...

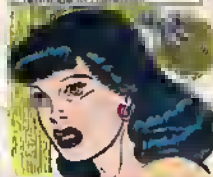
BLUBBER!



"THE WHOLE THING CAME TO A HEAD THE TIME THORNBERG BROKE UP THE BETWEEN JANSEN AND NAN FLEETERS FOR A WHILE IT LOOKED LIKE A JUDGE

WAF... WAF DARLINGS BOTH OF YOU! PLEASE FOR MY SAKE!

HOW CAN I CHOOSE ONE OF YOU WITHOUT HURTING THE OTHER? BUT THERE MUST BE A WAY! YES! THERE IS! I WILL MARRY THE ONE WHO BRINGS IN THE MOST WHALE TONNAGE IN A MONTH!



FOR A MOMENT NAN'S WORDS BROUGHT ONLY A PUZZLING SILENCE. THEN...

HA-HA-HA! A GOOD DEAL! GET READY TO MARRY JAN JANSEN NAN, A MONTH FROM TODAY!

BUNK! I'LL BE ME ALLS THORNBERG. NAN! MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT THAT!



HE WAS WET AND GRAY ON THAT FIRST MORNING THE FACT WAS MADE. TWO OTHER CHASERS BESIDE JANSEN'S AND THORNBERG'S BOATS HAD LEFT THE SHORE STATION BEFORE DAWN AND NOW THE WHALING BEGAN.



WE ALWAYS SHARED THINGS EVERYTHING. WHY DOES HE GET SORE NOW? I HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO NAN AS NILS!

BUT IF HE W- IT THAT WAY THAT'S HOW IT'LL BE!



JANSEN AND THORNBERG HAD SHARED THE PACIFIC WAVE, SHARED THEIR RISK, THEIR DANGER, THEIR LIVES. WHEN IT WAS OVER THEY HAD STAYED ON... IN JAPAN... WITH THE AMERICAN-ORIENTAL WHALING COMPANY...

THORNBERG WAS AN EXPERT WARDROOM-GUNNER AND HE TAUGHT JANSEN A LOT OF ONE...

I DRINK TO YOU, JAN. YOU BROUGHT IN MORE THAN I DID THIS MONTH!

IT WAS JUST SUCH AN OCCASION... LATER, WHEN NAN FLANDER CAME INTO THEIR LIVES...

YOU STAY HERE, JAN.



JANSEN HAD LEARNED FAST. THERE GREW UP A FRIENDLY RIVALRY...



JANSEN HESITATED THEN, GLASS IN HAND. HE FOLLOWED THORNBERG TO THE TABLE. THEY HAD COME TO THE PACIFIC IN 1942 THIS WAS 1949. SEVEN YEARS WITHOUT SPEAKING TO AN AMERICAN WOMAN THEN.

I HAD TO STAY THESE TEN!

YOU... REALLY MEANT IT, EX, NILS?



AFTER THAT JANSEN WAS CAUTIOUS. HE STAYED AWAY FROM SOME OF THE THINGS THORNBERG WENT ON. HE BOUGHT OUT NAN... AND AROUND HER LIPS WERE SWEET... AND HE WAS HUNGRY FOR THEM...



THEN ONE DAY...

NILS!

YOU CROOK! YOU'RE A YELLOW RIVER RAT, JAN. YOU GONNA KILL ME!



THREE WEEKS PRESSED AND NEITHER RIVAL COULD GAIN A MARGIN OF TONNAGE OVER THE OTHER. NERVES GREW TAUT AS THE DAY OF RECKONING DREW NEAR. THEN ON THE LAST DAY...

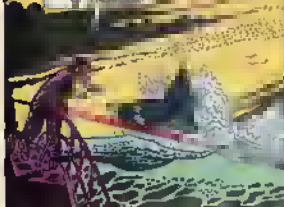
THERE SHE BLOWS!

PULL SPEED AHEAD! ALL HANDS AT STATIONS! COMPOUND IT, THAT'S THORNBERG COMING IN TOO!



THE HARPOON SANK DEEP INTO THE WHALE'S BACK, BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG WITH THE BOMB IN THE HARPOON. AND IT SHOULD HAVE GONE OFF, KILLING THE PREY, BUT IT FAILED TO DO SO AND...

WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TROUBLE!



IT WAS A HUGE FINDER. JENSEN BROKE EVERY RULE TO GET THE ANIMAL. FULL SPEED WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE CUT HIS SPEED, FIRING BEFORE HIS AIM WAS PERFECT... NETS TANGLED...

GOT HIM! AND BEFORE THORNBERG! WHAT A CATCH!

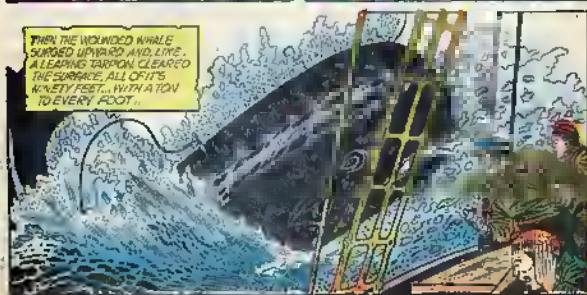


THE WHALE SOUNDED... DOWN AND DOWN... A HALF MILE... THREE CHARTERS... ONE HUNDRED...

WE CAN PULL US UNDER IF THE ROPE GOES OUT!

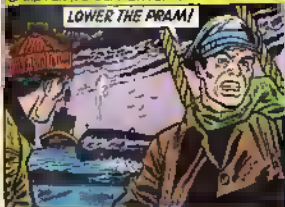


THEN THE WOUNDED WHALE SURGED UPWARD AND, LIKE A LEAPING TARPON, CLEARED THE SURFACE, ALL OF ITS NINETY FEET... WITH A TON TO EVERY FOOT...



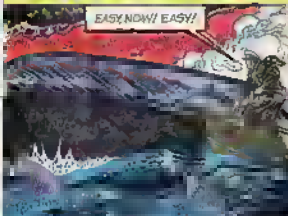
THE WHALE WAS SPENT AFTER THAT AND LAY SPAUTING. BUT JANSEN'S KEEN EYE NOTED THE HARPOON WAS WORKING LOOSE. MOREOVER, THORNBURG'S CRAFT WAS GETTING NEAR. IF JANSEN LOST THE WHALE, IT MIGHT BE FAIR GAME FOR HIS COMPETITOR...

LOWER THE PRAM!



TO START THE MOTORS WOULD HAVE SENT THE BIG WHALE FREE. THERE WAS ONE CHANCE. JANSEN WAS GOING TO TRY TO STRIKE A VITAL SPOT BY HAND. HE SCARCELY NOTICED THE UGLY KILLERS THAT SURROUNDED THE PRAM IN WHICH HE RODE...

EASY, NOW! EASY!



JANSEN HAD STRUCK DEEPLY INTO THE LUNGS WHEN THE WHALE IN A FINAL LURCH RAISED ITS FLUKES—

A/YYY-Y-Y-Y!



**HELP!
HELP!!**

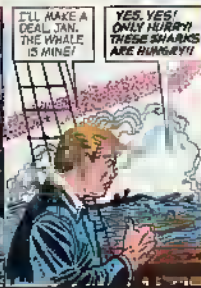
**USE A STICK! POKE 'EM!
JAB 'EM! THEY'VE TASTED
BLOOD FROM THE WHALE!
THEY'LL BITE ANYTHING!!**



**NILS! THANK GOD YOU
COME! HURRY! LOWER A
PRAM! THROW US A
LINE!**



**I'LL MAKE A
DEAL, JAN.
THE WHALE
IS MINE!**



**YES, YES!
ONLY HURRY!
THESE SHARKS
ARE HUNGRY!!**

**THORNBURG CALMLY AIMED
HIS HARPOON GUN AT THE
ALMOST DEAD ANIMAL
AND FIRED...**

**THIS MAKES IT OFFICIAL!
YOU CAN'T TRUST A GUY
WHO WILL STEAL YOUR
WHALE FROM YOU!!**



NILS! NILS! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! AIIYYEOWWW!!



JANSEN PASSED OUT AND WHEN HE CAME TO HE WAS ON THORNBERG'S COAT AND NILS WAS BESIDE HIM...

**YOU DIRTY KILLER!
YOU LET THAT SHARK GET
ME ON PURPOSE! I'M
GONNA GET YOU THROWN
OUT!**

**EASY, JAM. I FIGURED
YOU COULD TAKE CARE
OF YOURSELF. SORRY
GONNA HAVE YOU PAY
ED UP FINE THOUGH!**



**WHAT ARE YOU DOING
WITH THAT BLOWTORCH?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA
DO WITH IT?**

**NOT WHY CAUTERIZE
THAT WOUND, JAN!
YOU DON'T WANT TO
LOSE A LEG, DO YOU?**



**AS THORNBERG MOVED NEAR JANSEN'S COAT, JANSEN
LURCHED UP GRABBING THORNBERG BY THE NECK...**

**NEW SCREAM, YOU DIRTY
BLOODY, MERCILESS KILLER!
SCREAM!!**

**NO! JAN!
JAN! MY G...**



**YIIIIII... LET ME OUT!!!
LET ME GO!!!**



THE TORN FELL UPON THE JUS OF GASOLINE WITH WHICH THORNBERG HAD FILLED THE TORN AND...

HELP! FIRE!!



THE CREW PUT OUT THE FLAMES, AND STED FOR THE SHORE STATION. NEITHER THORNBERG NOR JANSEN KNEW ANYTHINGS BY THEN. THEY AWOKE LATER, DAYS LATER... ON SHORE, IN TOO GREAT PAIN TO KNOW THAT ORIGINAL CHARGES HAD BEEN LODGED AGAINST THEM...



THEY DID NOT KNOW THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN TO AN ARMY HOSPITAL ON THE MAINLAND. SKORLY JANSEN'S SENSES CLEARED. HE COULD LOOK ACROSS THE AISLE AND SEE THORNBERG WRITHING IN AGONY. WHEN THE DOCTOR CAME...

DOC YOU GOTTA GET WORD TO A GIRL NAMED NAN FLANDERS.

SAVE NAME THORNBERG WAS SHRIEK THIS IN DELIRIUM



IF THAT'S THE ONE YOU TWO WERE BATTLING OVER YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING UP A BLIND ALLEY WE TRIED TO GET WORD TO HER ABOUT THORNBERG. SHE WENT OFF WITH THE CAPTAIN OF A TRADING VESSEL THREE WEEKS AGO!



WHY THAT... I'LL KILL HER! I'LL KILL HER!

YOU AND THORNBERG HAVE DONE QUITE ENOUGH ALREADY WHEN YOU GET OUT OF HERE YOU'LL BE FACING A TRIAL. IT'S ONLY LUCKY THE REST OF YOUR CREW'S WERENT BURNED TO DEATH OR EATEN BY SHARKS!



JANSEN WATCHED THE DOCTOR LEAVE THE WHOLE STRIPPED OF THE THING DAMNED SKORLY UPON HIM

ALL THAT... FOR A DAME...



YES, FOR A DAME EACH HAD RUINED THE OTHER. JANSEN FOREVER A CRIPPLE WITHOUT A LEG... THORNBERG A TWISTED HIDEOUS THING... AND IF THEY LIVED CRIMINALS TO BOOT. SUDDENLY THE GAY RAYOR OF IT STRUCK JANSEN... HE TIPPED BACK HIS HEAD...

HA-HA... HA HA HA... HA HA HA HA! NOW MUCH TONNAGE, NILS? HA HA HA HA HA!... HA...



THE END

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Among the men who have learned to live with Death, among the structural steel workers, the high wire men, the divers and sand-hogs and powdermen, there is a saying that "all occupations are dangerous for fools." It is their way of dismissing the skill and daring it takes to stay alive in the daily gamble they call their trade.

Even so, there is something in what they say.

For every occupation may be hazardous. Industrial safety surveys show, for instance, that there are some 520 important job hazards in addition to accidents. Some of these are concealed, but most of them are apparent upon a little investigation of the work situation. And most of them are nowadays hedged around with a multitude of precautions and mechanical safeguards which are a tribute to the efforts of many safety engineers.

But it still takes trained muscles, steady nerves and clear heads to avoid the deadly consequences of ignorant and inattention in the fast-moving world of machines and technical processes in which we live. The hand that is not quick is cut off. The lazy arm is caught up into a crushing jaw of gears. The dull-witted body is overladen and flattened

into a bloody mass. Whatever our occupation, we all face the dangers of modern mechanization, if only on the highway or the city street.

Technology has, however, created another class of dangers that are silent and often immobile—the electrical and chemical hazards that do not rattle before they strike.

These are the destructive enemies that shock instantly or irradiate patiently; the poisons that secretly rob living tissue of life; the quiet flames that destroy the brain; the dusts that corrode the lungs.

In the form of solvents and bases, as past and present of various processes, as product and by-product, the chemicals of industry can kill as surely as a falling girder. In 1933, the U. S. Department of Labor listed in one of its publications 94 of these industrial poisons, some of them dangerous even when properly handled, and all of them deadly if misused. As an example, take the case of fumes from spray painting. It is said that painters on the average die 16 years before their time. Yet, under conditions of adequate ventilation and careful use, the fumes from modern paints are harmless. The difference lies in the work habits and the knowledge of the painters.

DOUBLE DANGER

As another example, and to indicate how devious may be the ways of criminal death, take the page from the history of the hatters' unions that shows a suicide toll among the members 450% above that of the general population. This was due to a process known as "carrotting" wherein nitrate of mercury was used on hair so that under steam and pressure it would form felt for hats. Felt was not all it affected, however. The effect of mercury fumes on the human brain brought on death—by the roundabout way of suicidal impulses that the victims could not resist!

Tomorrow, the history of radioactive substances and strange energies being harnessed in our laboratories may write even more weird chapters of the hidden dangers men face in the course of their daily work.

In any event, knowledge is man's great protection in this mine of lurking death. When the disguise of the killer is known, he is to a large extent disarmed. That, of course, is the basis of the wise workers' need to work to "know what you are working with."

In the larger field of industrial accidents, though, knowledge is not so great a protection as statistics. Here all the accumulated wisdom

in the world means less than the simple ability to "get out of the way," or even just to "watch what you're doing." Statistics allow no argument on this point. They show, as plainly as a row of gravestones, that in any year of normal employment approximately 25,000 workers in the U. S. are killed from industrial accidents alone.

In more detail, the figures point out that in years of average employment about 10,000 construction workers are killed in the U. S. and perhaps two million injured. In New York, the center of skyscraper construction, over a thousand construction workers are killed every year.

Further, three out of every thousand American mine workers are killed in mining accidents each year. In the first three months of this year there were 133 fatalities in the mines. As a matter of fact, the figures of the statistical tables reveal that of all occupations, the one having the highest mine fatality record is the United States.

And so on and so on, through the list of occupations.

Out of it all arises the significant fact that

job accidents are a serious menace to the life of every worker, and that these accidents are no respecter of person, place, or employment. What does not show through the statistics is the more fundamental fact that these accidents involve human beings before as well as after the fatal moment. In other words, the figures have a deeper meaning in that someone has to do or lead to do something in order to produce the events summarized in the cold figures. It is this human element that we are all too likely to forget in any consideration of the factors concerned.

Actually, there are no such things as "fatal accidents."

There are only fatal mistakes.

And it takes human beings to make the mistakes, whether workers or employers.

Employers' mistakes, by the way, are usually self-evident in that they are questions of dangerous premises rather than questions of dangerous persons, and the fixing of responsibility can ordinarily be accomplished by inspection.

Workers' mistakes, however, are another matter, and often the worker is unaware that he is the victim of his own mistake.

Most arguments about accident liability revolve around these two points. Witness an illustration of the following quotations taken from reports of experts regarding industrial accidents:

"... although the railways—always made to suffer financially for accidents for which their officers or servants are held responsible by the courts—have for years taken almost every conceivable precaution, the number of accidents, in proportion to the number of persons travelling, diminishes but slowly—so slowly that, in view of the variety of conditions to be considered, it would hardly be able to conclude that the diminution is due to any definite improvement in the safeguards provided. Collisions, on the other hand, are preventable, and detrimental not only to the records of deaths and injuries in this class in successive years are therefore finally taken as an index to the efficiency with which the railroads are managed. Apart from collisions and derailments, a large portion of all accidents is found to be due primarily to want of care on the part of the victims... the accident totals must be taken as being somewhat near the 'irreducible minimum'—unless some of the infirmities of the human mind can be cured."

"... the most serious source of death and injury is not found in mine explosions, but in the fall of rocks and mineral in the working places. The danger can be trifled only in small degree by laws and inspection; but the safety of the men must depend upon the skill and care of the miners themselves and the officers in charge of the underground work. Great loss of life and injury occur through the ignorance, carelessness and recklessness of

the men themselves, who fail to take the necessary precautions for their own safety, even when warned to do so."

"... if the owners didn't demand so much work per hour from the men, then the men would have time to take the necessary precautions, but if it's a shenanigan between the job and the risk, most of the men will take the risk."

"... if a seaman receives hurt or injury in the service of a ship, the expense of medical attendance and maintenance, together with the cost of bringing him home, is to be borne by the owner of the ship, and cannot be deducted from wages."

So run the arguments. The assignment of blame and the assessment of damages, however, heals no wounds and spurs no pain; so to the individual most intimately concerned, the potential victim, arguments are something for lawyers to worry about. With others he sees urge the passage of laws and the maintenance of inspections to dispose of dangerous premises. But as for dangerous persons—he must look out for himself.

At this point, Science has a contribution to make through recent research which set out to locate some of the main causes of accidents in so-called hazardous jobs. It was found, as expected, that the human factor loomed large in any calculations. Certain psychological testing procedures were then utilized to separate the most important behavior characteristics of workers who were most frequently involved in accidents.

The result was as simple as it was startling.

First it was determined that *recklessness* was the trait of personality that marked the individual most likely to have an accident.

Next, the specific nature of this recklessness was isolated and minutely analyzed, and then the findings were summed up as follows:

The reckless individual has a general tendency to hurry, regardless of circumstances, but also has a further and fatal tendency to speed up when he thinks or finds out that he can get away with it.

Sooner or later that individual doesn't "get away with it," and that is the time when an accident statistics get another boost. Oddly enough, if you asked such an individual what a coin tossed three times and three times turned up heads would be bound to turn up heads the fourth time, he would probably tell you only a fool would think so.

Will, that's the point.

It might be the better part of wisdom to take a tip from the men who make their living by taking chances with their lives. It's their opinion that "all occupations are dangerous for fools."

As the safety slogans have it: Don't Be Foolish—The Life You Save May Be Your Own!

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BLACK GOLD!

YOU'RE CLIMBING HAND-OVER-HAND ON BURNING WOODEN PYLONS OF AN OIL WELL THAT THREATENS TO EXPLODE ANY MOMENT. LYING UNCONSCIOUS ON THE PLATFORM OVERHEAD IS YOUR ARCH-ENEMY AND RIVAL COMPETITOR WHO HAS FORCED YOU OUT-OF-BUSINESS-- YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO SAVE HIS LIFE OR NOT-- BECAUSE CLENCHED IN YOUR HAND IS A BOTTLE OF **NITRO**! WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



THERE AREN'T EMPERORS OR KINGS IN THE UNITED STATES--AND THERE AREN'T ANY DICTATORS. BUT ROYALTY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE POLITICAL. THE MAIN THING THAT COUNTS IS POWER! THAT'S WHAT BIG HUGH NOTION KADY HE ALSO HAD THE LARGEST OIL WELL IN TEXAS!

ALMOST DONE! JUST A FEW MORE WHACKS-- AND THIS COVER'LL BE WEDGED TIGHT!

LE-GHIN! THERE SHE'S CAPPED NOW!



OKAY, BOYS! STEP BACK! I'M GONNA DRAW IN THIS GUSHER WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!

SHE'S ALL YOURS, CHIEF! IT'S A BIG ONE!



LE-GHIN! GET BACK! I CAN HEAR HER RUMBLING WAY DOWN!



SHE'S A GUSHER!
ALL RIGHT! LOOK
AT HER ROAR!!



YOU DID IT, BOSS!
YOU BROUGHT HER
THROUGH AGAIN!

CONGRATULATIONS, HUGH!
THIS SHOULD BRING IN ABOUT
TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
BARRELS FOR US!

THAT'S NOTHING!
SHELL BRING
IN MORE!



YES, BIG
HUGH HAD
EVERYTHING
HE WANTED!
HE EVEN
HAD HIS
PRETTY
DAUGHTER
SALLY
TO LOVE
HIM. HE
WAS
RUTHLESS
AND A
TYRANT...
BUT HIS
ONE
WEAKNESS
WAS
SALLY...

OH, DADDY! I'M
SO PROUD OF YOU!
I KNEW IT WOULD
PAY OFF AND YOU
DROVE YOURSELF
SO!

IT'S ALL FOR YOU, HONEY!
GO BUY YOURSELF ANY-
THING YOU WANT! ORDER
A DOZEN HUNK-COATS!
HA! HA... WE GOT ENOUGH
BLACK GOLD TO BUY A
CITY!



I'LL GIVE YOU THE
MOON, HONEY! I-
YOU! WHAT'RE YOU
DOING HERE!

WELL, NORTON!



GET OUT OF
HERE! GET
OFF MY
LAND!
NOW!

HOLD ON, NORTON! SALLY DROVE
ME HERE! I DIDN'T WANT TO
COME--BUT SHE MADE ME! WE
SAW THE GUSHER FROM THE ROAD!
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT! I GOT NO
RIGHT HERE!

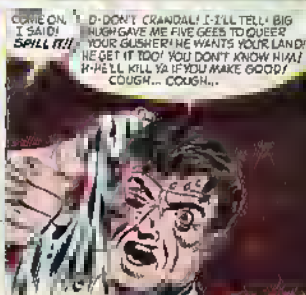
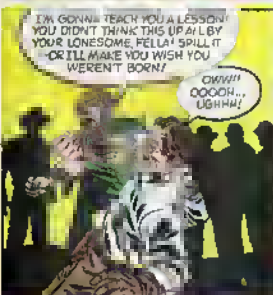
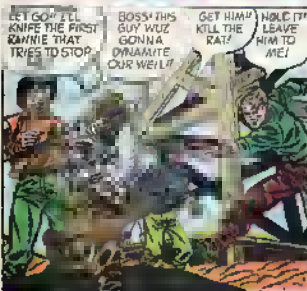
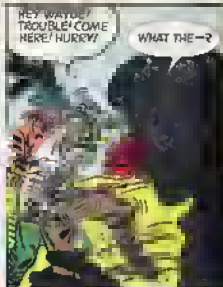


WAYDE,
PLEASE!
WAYDE!!

TELL YOUR OLD MAN I'M GONNA
BUILD MY OWN WELL! THAT'S WHAT
IRKS HIM. DOESN'T IT? TELL HIM
ALSO THAT I'M GONNA SEE YOU IF
I WANT TO! HE'S BOSS ON HIS LAND!
BUT NOT OUTSIDE IT!!



WAYDE CRANDAL
HAS A WILDCATTER
-ONE OF A HOST
OF ENTERPRISING
YOUNG MEN WHO
COMPETED WITH
OIL TYCOONS
LIKE MORTON!
ONLY HE HAD
MADE GOOD!
BIG HUGH HATED
HIS GUTS NOW
NOT BECAUSE HE
WAS HORNING
IN ON WHAT HE
CONSIDERED
OILY MARKET--
BUT BECAUSE
WAYDE LOVED
SALLY...



WAYDE, DEAR! IS--IS SOMETHING THE MATTER? I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR FATHER'S BEHAVIOR BACK THERE!

SAVE IT SALLY! I JUST CAUGHT A LOUSE IN THE WORKS HERE--SENT ESPECIALLY FROM YOUR EVER-LOVIN' DADDY TO BLOW THIS AREA SKY-HIGH!

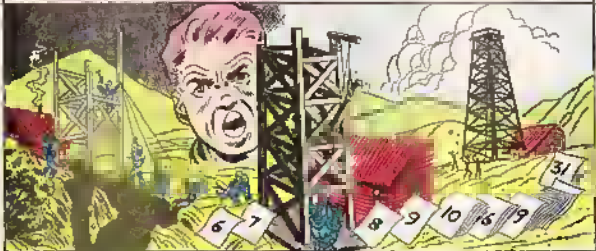


NO! IT-IT'S NOT TRUE! FATHER WOULDN'T--! WAYDE-- I CAN'T HIDE IT FROM MYSELF ANY LONGER! YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT I'LL STAY WITH YOU IF YOU WANT ME TO!

THAT'S ALL I WANT, BABY! WE'RE GONNA SHOW YOUR OLD MAN THAT WE HAVE SPUNK! START'ER ROLLING BOYS! **BACK TO WORK!**



WEEKS PASSED--AND SLOWLY WAYDE CRANDAL'S OIL WELL ROSE INTO THE SKY! HIS ENTIRE SAVINGS HAD BEEN SUNK IN THE VENTURE, BUT IT ALSO REPRESENTED HIS LOVE FOR SALLY NORTON! A MAN GETS RICH FOR MANY REASONS, WAYDE'S REASON WAS TO HAVE SALLY HIS WAY!



HE DID IT IN RECORD TIME! WELL! WELL! IT'S A SHAME IT HAS TO COME DOWN! BUT NO YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPER IS GONNA TAKE MY DAUGHTER AWAY FROM ME!



OKAY, BOYS! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! DON'T LEAVE A STICK STANDING! A THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE FIRST ONE WHO BLOWS UP HIS WELL!



DON'T WORRY CHIEF! IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE!

FOUR HOURS LATER IN N. TOE'S CAMP.

THERE HE IS, BOYS! GET HIM! YOU'RE A GONE! WAYDE!

READY! UP EVERYONE! FENG HUGH'S SENT HIS BOYS TO GET ROUGH! OKAY! IF THIS IS GONNA BE A SHOW-DOWN, LET'S PLAY ROUGH OURSELVES!

OH-HI!



I'M GOING TO SEE FATHER! I'LL HAT STOP THIS!!

BOSS! LOOK! SUPPORTS ARE GIVING WAY!!

WATCH IT! JUMP CLEAR!!

NORTON'S HIRED RATS SAWED RIGHT THROUGH THE MAIN TIMBERS!!



WHEN SALLY NORTON RETURNED, HARD EYED MEN GREETED HER THE BATTLE HAD BEEN LOST, WAYDE STOOD FALTING HER, UNSEEN...

WAYDE-I JUST CAME BACK FROM FATHER'S CAMP! IT'S A HOLocaust! A CABLE CROKE AND SENT SPARKS INTO THE OIL! THE FIRE'S SPREADING!

THAT'S A REAL SHAME!



PLEASE, DARLING! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT ISN'T JUST DAD! THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF WELLS HERE OWNED BY OTHERS! DAD'S PLACE JOINS THEM! WE ALL BE RUINED! THEY NEED EVERY MAN THEY CAN GET!

IT'S OKAY IF HE TEARS MY WELL DOWN-- BUT WHEN HE'S IN A JAM, IT'S DIFFERENT! WELL-- HE CAN STEW IN HIS OWN POT!

OH, WAYDE! YOU'RE JUST AS BRUTAL-- AND AS HARD AS HE IS! DON'T YOU SEE IT ISN'T A PERSONAL FIGHT ANYMORE? PLEASE! PLEASE-- SORRY... SORRY...

WELL, CRANDAL! WHADDA YOU SAY?

OKAY! LET'S GO! THE WORSE! THE NORTON CAN DO IS TELL ME TO GET OFF HIS LAND!



THE LAND
NOW HAD
BECOME
A MASS
OF BLACK
SOOT AND
SMOKE.
MIXED
THE ACID
DOOR OF
BURNING
OIL--
MILLIONS
OF DOLLARS
WORTH!

WOHNT I NEVER SEEN
NUTHIN' LIKE THIS IN MY
WHOLE LIFE!!--MUST BE
OVER A DOZEN WELLS
GOING UP!

IF WE CAN BLOW
UP THAT LAST
WELL, SHE
WONT SPREAD!!



WAYDE--OLD MAN
NORTON'S UP THERE
ON THAT PLATFORM--
UNCONSCIOUS! HE GOT
ROD BY THE SMOKE
WHEN HE TRIED TO
SAVE THE WELL!!

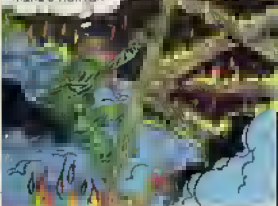
FATHER--DONT
UP WORRY!
THERE! HONEY!!
OH--I'LL SAVE
HIM IF I
CAN! AND
HERE'S THE
NITRO!!



MOMENTS AFTERWARDS...

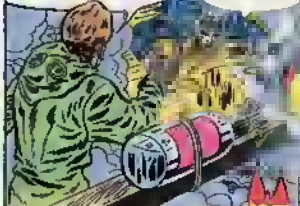
WHAT AN EASY WAY TO
COMMIT SUICIDE! THIS
NITRO IS GETTIN' HOT!
GOTTA WORK FAST!
THERE'S NORTON!

OH--



THERE! THAT SHOULD DO IT!
WHEN THOSE FLAMES REACH
THIS BOTTLE--SHE'LL KNOCK
THIS SUPPORT SKY-HIGH!
NORTON--CAN YOU HEAR ME?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

CRANDAL--
COUGH... COUGH...
--DONT BE A
FOOL! I--I'M
DOING FOR--
SAVE YOURSELF!



I HAVEN'T GOT TIME
TO ARGUE! I'M GONNA
GET YOU DOWN IF I
HAVTA CARRY YOU
LIKE A SACK O'
WHEAT!

FASTER,
DARLING!
FASTER!! THE
FLAMES--BEHIND
YOU!! HURRY!!



BUT WAYDE CRANDAL HAD CLEARED THE
WELL SECONDS BEFORE... LATER...

DARLING--
DARLING!
YOU'RE
SAFE!

SHAKE, SON! I-I CAN'T SAY
MUCH NOW--BUT WHEN WE'RE
ALL RESTED AND CLEANED UP
YOU AND I ARE GONNA START
BUILDING AGAIN--AS NORTON &
SON INC! THERE'S ENOUGH
"BLACK" GOLD FOR EVERYONE!



THE
END

THE WEST RIVER TUNNEL HAD BEEN A BATTLE EVERY INCH OF THE WAY...

I'LL HAVE YOU FREE
HARRY! JUST A FEW
MORE YANKS!

NO, THE RIVERS GOT
ME, JACK! SCRAM NOW
BEFORE IT GETS YOU!

DAVE O'BRIEN

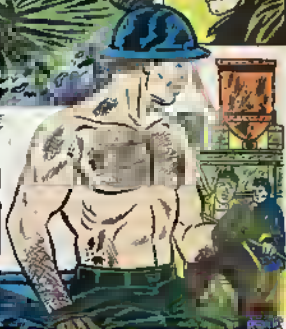


JACK CARPENTERS



THE KID HAD THE PROMOTION, ALL RIGHT, AND MAYBE
HE HAD EARNED IT, BUT THEY WERE SENDING A BOY
TO DO A MAN'S JOB. IT TAKES MORE THAN A
PROMOTION TO MAKE A...

SANDHOG



I MIGHT HAVE MADE IT GOOD, BUT SUDDENLY THE
WHOLE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER SEEMED TO GIVE
WAY. THE SHORING SHIFTED, DRAGGING HARRY
MACK UNDER WATER, PHUNING HIM THERE....

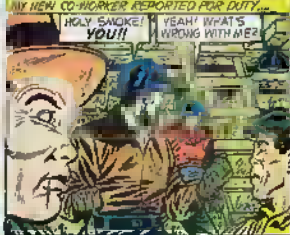
GOTTA LEAVE...
GOTTA GET OUT!!



A SANDHOG GETS USED TO DEATH, HE LIVES SO USED
TO IT. BUT HARRY MACK'S DEATH HAD SHOCKED ME
BADLY. WE HAD WORKED SIDE BY SIDE FOR TWENTY
YEARS, YET I WAS IN FOR A FURTHER SHOCK WHEN
MY NEW CO-WORKER REPORTED FOR DUTY....

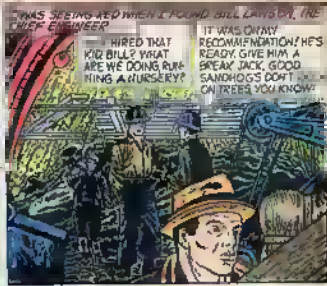
HOLY SMOKE!
YOU!!

YEAH! WHAT'S
WRONG WITH ME?





YOU'LL FIND OUT,
SON! YOU'LL FIND
OUT!



"I WAS SEEING RED WHEN I FOUND BILL LAWSON, THE
CHIEF ENGINEER

HIRED THAT
KID BILL? WHAT
ARE WE DOING RUN-
NING A NURSERY?

IT WAS ONLY
RECOMMENDATION! HE'S
READY, GIVE HIM A
BREAK JACK, GOOD.
SANDHOGS DON'T
ON TREES YOU KNOW!



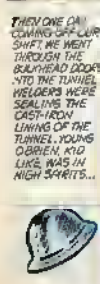
"BEFORE HARRY RACK'S DEATH, YOUNG LANE O'BRIEN
HAD BEEN A HIPPER* OR HANDY-BOY NOW HE WAS
AN EQUAL, AN EQUAL? WE'D SEE....

ALL RIGHT O'BRIEN, NOW
WE'LL KNOW IF YOU CAN
TAKE IT!

WATCH ME,
CARRUTHERS.
I'LL DO MY SHARE!



THE KID WAS A GOOD DAY AFTER DAY
WE DUG INTO THE MUCK BELOW THE BOTTOM
OF THE RIVER, EACH DAY I EXPECTED
TROUBLE BUT IT DIDN'T COME



THEN ONE DAY
COMING OFF OUR
SHIFT, WE WENT
THROUGH THE
BULKHEAD DOOR
INTO THE TUNNEL.
WELDERS WERE
SEALING THE
CAST-IRON
LINING OF THE
TUNNEL. YOUNG
O'BRIEN, KID
LIKE, WAS IN
HIGH SPIRITS...



YI! LOOK!



IT IS THE GREAT AMOUNT OF OXYGEN IN HIGH AIR THAT MAKES FIRE SUCH A HAZARD. EVERYONE NOW IN THE TUNNEL WAS WORKING FURIOUSLY!!



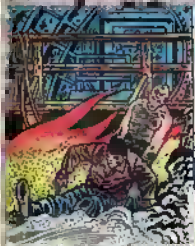


I SAID...COUGH...COUGH...
...COME OUT!!



THE SMOKE AND
FUMES GOT ME...
THEN, MY KNEES
BUCKLED...

CHOKING, GAGGING, I BEGAN TO PASS
OUT WHEN CARMEN GRABBED ME.



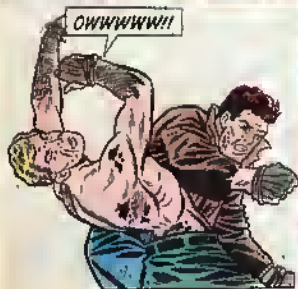
THEY'VE TAKEN THE LIFT!!
BUT I'LL GET TO THE AIR
LOCK ANYWAY!!



WE WERE IN THE FIRST AIR LOCK
WHEN I CAME TO. THE OTHERS HAD
MOVED ON INTO THE SECOND LOCK.
THE KID AND I WERE ALONE. IN
SPITE OF CARMEN'S BRAVERY,
ANGER AND RESENTMENT
AGAINST HIM WELLED UP WITHIN ME.



YOU CAUSED THAT FIRE
WITH YOUR CARELESSNESS!
I'M GONNA BEAT THE DAY
LIGHTS OUT OF YOU!



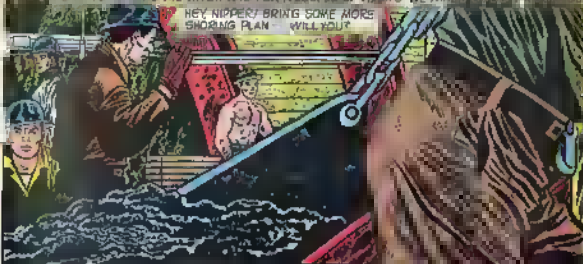
OWWWW!!!



I'M... SORRY KID
YOU SAVED MY
LIFE!

DON'T APOLOGIZE, JACK,
I HAD IT COMING. IF I
HADN'T STARTED THE
TROUBLE YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE NEEDED SAVING.
I... GUESS I HAVEN'T
MADE THE GRADE!!

THE PIPE BURSTED ITSELF OUT WITHOUT GREAT DAMAGE. BUT EVERYONE HAD SEEN THE CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM - TO - NG THE RIVER AND FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS WE MADE GOOD PROGRESS



LAWSON HAD BEEN GOING TO FIRE THE KID BUT I WAS ABLE TO TALK THE ENGINEER INTO GIVING DAVE HIS OLD JOB AS 'NIPPER'.

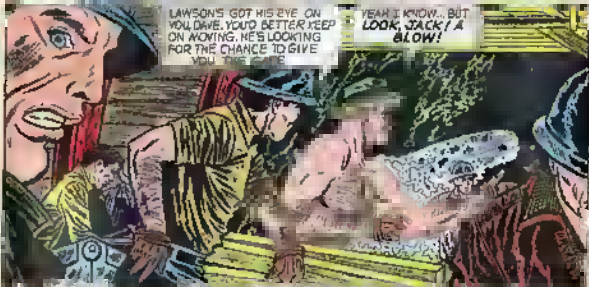


BUT ALL THE SPIRIT WAS GONE OUT OF THE KID. HE HAD HAD HIS MIND SET ON BECOMING A SANDHOG. BRING A COUPLE OF MORE PLANKS, WILL YOU KID?



LAWSON'S GOT HIS EYE ON YOU, DAVE. YOU'D BETTER KEEP ON MOVING. HE'S LOOKING FOR THE CHANCE TO GIVE YOU THE SQUEEZE.

YEAH I KNOW... BUT LOOK, JACK! A BLOW!



THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER HAD BECOME THIN AS WE HAD PROGRESSED THE HIGH PRESSURE INSIDE THE TUNNEL HAD BLOWN A SMALL HOLE IN THE MUDDY WALL.

BRING HAY, EVERY-
ODY! A BLOW!!



MAYBE THAT'S
STOP IT

I
RUNNO...



IT'S BEING SUCKED RIGHT
BY THIS IS A BAD Omen
LONG WINDY RAIN



THE KID, LAWSON AND I HAULED THE BALE
THROUGH THE BULKHEAD DOOR...

SUDDENLY
THE THIN
TOP OF THE
TUNNEL
GAVE WAY
COMPLETELY
EVERYTHING
WAS SUCKED
INTO AN
UPWARD
WHIRLPOOL...



THROUGH THE RIVER'S BOTTOM, THROUGH FORTY FEET OF WATER WE SHOT.



UH..WHNNN!!



I PASSED OUT FROM THE KNOCK ON THE HEAD, BUT THE CAPTAIN OF THE RIVER CRAFT THAT PICKED US UP TOLD US THAT IT WAS YOUNG DAVE OBRIEN WHO KEPT BOTH LAWSON WHO COULDN'T SWIM, AND ME AFLOAT...

THROW US A LINE, WILL YOU?



THE BOAT PICKED US UP.

LISTEN, TAKE US TO THE EAST BANK... WHERE THEY'RE DREDGING! IT'S... THE BENDS!!



WE WERE IN BAD SHAPE WHEN WE REACHED SHORE, BUT THANKS TO DAVE OBRIEN WE WERE STILL ALIVE. THEY HURRIED US TO THE PRESSURE CHAMBER...



WELL...WE ALL SURVIVED NONE THE WORSE FOR THE EXPERIENCE, BUT LAWSON WON'T FORGET ABOUT IT FOR A LONG WHILE, AND WHO IS WORKING BESIDE ME NOW... A FULL-FLEDGED SANDHOG, YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT--THE KID, DAVE OBRIEN! HE'S GOOD TOO, HE'LL MAKE THE PROMOTION STICK THIS TIME!



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DANGER

1

Jan. 1953

COVER, Don Heck*

STEEL GIRDER

HECK*

7

BUMBER

MORISI*

6

DOUBLE DANGER

TEXT

2

BLACK GOLD

HECK*

6

SANDHOG

MORISI

7